

New Orleans auxiliary San assoc

REPORT

— OF THE —

Flushing Committee

— AND THE —

TRANSFER

— OF THE —

TOULOUSE STREET PUMP,

— TO THE —

Executive Committee

— OF THE —

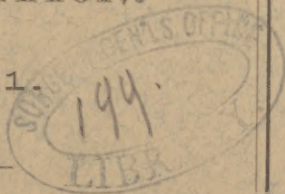
New Orleans Auxiliary

SANITARY ASSOCIATION.

JUNE 21st, 1881.

PRINTED BY M. F. DUNN & BRO., 70 CAMP ST., NEW ORLEANS,

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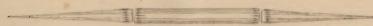
Executive Committee

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Mr. Edward Fenner on the part of the Flushing Committee, said :

Mr. President :

On the 13th day of July, 1880, we met to commemorate the completion of the flushing works, and their successful operation from Pleasant to Julia streets, a length of 13,370 feet, embracing in that distance 32 streets, extending from the Levee to the drainage canals.

We are now assembled to celebrate the accomplishment of this initial part of the plans, designed by the Sanitary Association for the purification of the street gutters and drainage canals, by means of an abundant supply of fresh water.

To make perfect this great system of purification, some plan must be devised to deflect the running streams from the perpendicular into the parallel gutters. The volume which these two powerful pumps can supply is sufficient, should occasion demand, to make an island of any square in the city. The mode so long and strenuously adhered to, of grading the parallel gutters from the centre each way, is, in the opinion of your committee, defective. The slight and intermittent flow from house drains either sinks into the ground or lies in stagnant pools before each dwelling. If the hydrants of the Water Works had been placed in the centre of each square, and the Company would consent to flush the gutters daily, the parallel gutters could be kept comparatively pure. But there

are not and never will be hydrants in the middle of the squares, nor will the Water Works Company flush systematically every day.

Having secured a bountiful supply of water, it remains for us to devise some plan by which the parallel streets can receive their share.

The expense of changing the grade of every parallel gutter in the city, that they may avail, automatically or otherwise, of the abundant current coursing down the perpendicular streets, would soon be compensated by the lessened cost of cleaning, and make the system the greatest boon ever conferred upon this city.

Your committee, after a thorough investigation, have found it impracticable to convey the flushing water through the gutters of the perpendicular streets in the rear of the Camp street canal, from Felicity Road to Olio street.

At our request, the Civil Engineers' Association of the Gulf, made a careful survey, and finished a profile plan of the district bounded by the River, Baronne, Felicity Road and St. Joseph street—which shows that between Magazine and Carondelet streets, there are two natural valleys or depressions, which can only be overcome by running a separate pipe from the main on the levee, across the Camp street canal to Carondelet street, by which means a territory, wherein reside a large number of the best friends and most liberal subscribers to the general work of sanitary improvements, may receive their full share of the flushing water.

We also direct your attention to the triangle formed by Esplanade, Elysian Fields and Claiborne streets,

which can only be flushed by means of a special pipe from the main on the levee.

Our inability to provide for the flushing of the two districts named, causes us much regret.

The two pumps are sufficiently powerful to supply these special pipes—but the cost of the main works have consumed the sum placed at the disposal of the Flushing Committee.

It has been often stated that the Sanitary Association do not claim the credit of having originated the plan of flushing the gutters with water from the Mississippi River.

Honored names of those not with us here to-day to join in celebrating this perfect fruition of their cherished designs, are associated with the idea of flushing the gutters with a constant stream of water from the river.

Fenner, Barton, Bailey and Choppin earnestly advocated the system. Dr. White, our Sanitary Director, and Dr. A. W. Perry have written learnedly on the subject.

It is a maxim of the Persians that any work raised by dishonesty melts rapidly away. If the converse of this maxim be assumed as the probable life of this fountain of health, then may we predict it will be imperishable. The work was conceived in a spirit of purest philanthropy, and executed as a sacred trust confided in you by the people.

So deeply are we impressed with the great importance of continuing these works of sanitary improvement until every avoidable cause of disease is removed,

that we presume to add somewhat to the dry details of our report, a brief history of former efforts to flush the gutters of this city, their cost and signal failure.

By contrasting the cost of these extensive works—complete, substantial and in successful operation, with that of former attempts, no vestige of which remain, it will serve to demonstrate how much can be done to improve the sanitary condition of this city with a small amount of money, judiciously and economically expended by those devoted to the public good. The introduction of the following interesting letter from our esteemed and well-known fellow citizen, Louis H. Pilie, civil engineer, will aid our design to trace the successive attempts that have been made to establish works of this character, and add to the future value of this report.

New Orleans, November 17th, 1880.

*To Thos. S. Elder, Chairman Committee on
Flushing, etc., N. O. Sanitary Association.*

DEAR SIR :

Pressing business has precluded my answering any sooner. You call for information relative to the irrigation of the gutters, drains, etc., of the City of New Orleans, and you will please accept my excuse for the unavoidable delay.

From the earliest days of the city a thorough system of irrigation and its benefits as a sanitary measure, has been deemed necessary—aye, indispensable.

Of its inception I cannot speak positively, but I do know that on the arrival in this city of my father, the

late Joseph Pilie, in the year 1802, when the city extended only from about Canal to Esplanade, and from the river to about Burgundy street, there were no sidewalks nor gutters, but only ordinary ditches; that the city was irrigated by means of wooden pipes, laid through the levee, at the head of each and every street perpendicular to the river, and that said pipes could flush the ditches only during high water, say for about four months, from April to the beginning of August, in each and every year.

Later, the city being more densely populated, the necessity of a larger supply of water was felt. Wooden curbs and gutters having been laid, the City Council, in the year 1813, contracted with a French civil engineer named Latrobe, to construct and erect a "*pompe a feu*" (steam pump) at the corner of Old Levee, now Decatur and Ursulines streets, and to lay the necessary pipes (wooden) on said Decatur, from Esplanade to Canal streets. The site of the "*pompe a feu*" is where now stands our fish market. The "*pompe a feu*" within a few months was completed and set to work.

The wooden pipe being found of insufficient size and capacity, was, in the year 1815, taken up and a twelve inch cast iron pipe substituted. This pipe is still in existence, but no doubt in very bad condition.

The "*pompe a feu*" was in constant daily use from the time of its erection, to about 1840 or 1841, when it was abolished for the erection of the fish market.

In 1844, although the necessity of flushing the gut-

ters, as an important factor for the promotion of the public health, was still apparent, yet the aforementioned iron pipe, proving of insufficient strength, having given way in many places, the steam pump was abandoned and a fruit market erected in its place.

Again, in 1858, the indispensable necessity of flushing the gutters asserting itself, many reports made by me, as city surveyor, on this all important question, brought the Council to the decision of having the proper pipes laid, and the necessary buildings and steam pumps erected.

The work was immediately begun and contracts entered into for furnishing the necessary outfit, etc.

A thirty-inch pipe was laid on Delta—from Canal street to Calliope street; an iron building, to contain the steam pumps, erected at the head of Canal street, and the contract for furnishing and erecting the pumps entered into with a St. Louis firm.

The war broke out at that time and the project was perforce abandoned.

The terrible scourge of 1878 having called together some of our most influential and public spirited citizens, to discuss the best means of sanitation for our city, your Association was formed and organized.

To its persistent and untiring efforts for the general welfare, the public may well look, and be thankful for the results already attained—the unprecedented good health of the city.

It is sincerely to be hoped that our large property owners, so much interested—in fact our whole com-

munity, (rich and poor) appreciating, realizing the unlimited benefits to be derived from the existence of your Association, will, by their liberal contributions, sustain you in your efforts, and afford the means for the furtherance of your plans, which, with the paving of our streets with square blocks, and a close attention to a proper system of drainage, will make our city one of the "healthiest on the American continent."

I remain, respectfully,

(Signed)

LOUIS H. PILIE,

Civil Engineer.

We are indebted to Stoddard Howell, Civil Engineer for the following details of the cost of the works commenced in 1853, and abandoned before completion.

" Ordinance No. 4508, approved April 21st, 1850, appropriated \$75,000 for the purchase of two double acting Worthington pumps, one mile of thirty-inch iron pipe and five miles of twenty-inch pipe."

" The pumps to be placed in a building located at the foot of Canal street."

The building was designed by W. H. Bell, at that time in the employ of City Surveyor L. H. Pilie. It was cast at the foundry of Bennet & Lurges, who were paid for the work.....\$ 47,632 82

Other charges for iron work done..... 423 40

J. K. Dunson bought the contract for furnishing the pipe, he was paid..... 36,177 56

Other charges on pipe..... 140 88

Patrick Nugent bought the contract after the war, for laying pipe; he was paid, as per contract 14,000 00

The courts awarded him for extra work ..	7,000 00
John Clark was paid, for supplying small pipe and valves	10,949 46
And for repairing valves.....	311 00

Amounting to\$116,635 22

The estimate made by H. C. Brown, City Surveyor, in his "Report to the Mayor and members of the City Council, July 25th, 1879," is as follows.

The cost of 4 miles of iron pipe, from the

Convent to Felicity Road, will be	\$105,600 00
And the adaption of outlets to the gutters	44,400 00
Engines and Pumps.....	80,000 00
Additional for Fourth District.....	100,000 00

\$330,000 00

The report of this committee, made in July, 1880, contained in detail the cost of laying 13,370 feet of 12 inch iron pipe, with buildings, engines and all attachments complete and in running order, amounting to.....\$45,678 94

The cost of extending the 12 inch iron pipe from Julia to Esplanade streets, a distance of 7,500 feet. The erection of this building, with engines and attachments complete, amounted to..... 29,872 14

Making a grand total of.....\$75,551 08

The following statement will show the present extent and capacity of this great sanitary improvement : total length of iron pipe, 20,870 feet. Two Blake duplex condensing pumping engines, having a maximum capacity of sixteen million gallons every twenty-four

hours. Number of perpendicular gutters flushed, 136, length of gutters flushed, 207 miles.

To His Honor, Mayor Shakspeare, and the City Administrators, the thanks of your Association are due, for their cordial co-operation and earnest support in furthering this important sanitary improvement.

Our friend and neighbor, Mr. A. Socola, has placed us under obligations for unrestricted use of his convenient warehouse, for the protection of our valuable material.

The contractors engaged in constructing these works have performed their labors to the perfect satisfaction of your committee. William Arms, builder; John Delatte, head mason; Robert McNamara, pipe layer; W. H. Newton, civil engineer, in charge of the works.

We sincerely hope that the beneficial effect of this great work will inspire in the minds of our citizens a firm determination to support your Association, until all preventible causes of unhealthfulness are removed.

Our committee now tender you the results of their labor,

THOS. S. ELDER, Chairman.

THOS. J. WOODWARD,

EDWARD FENNER.

Flushing Committee.

To which Mr. Albert Baldwin replied as follows:

Gentlemen of the Flushing Committee:

As Vice-President of the Sanitary Association, and chairman, pro tem, of the Executive Committee, it devolves upon me, in the absence of our President, Mr.

Chas. A. Whitney, and Genl. Cyrus Bussey, Chairman of the Executive Committee, to act this day in a dual capacity. I perform the duty incumbent on them with feelings of satisfaction, which I shall make no attempt to conceal.

The report of your committee, to which we have all listened with great interest and attention, is so full of interesting details of the creation of this monument to the enterprise of our citizens, of such evidences of the care and skill of those to whom the work was entrusted, and contains so satisfactory a statement of their stewardship, that it becomes my duty, as it is my pleasure, to thank you in behalf of the New Orleans Auxiliary Sanitary Association and the citizens, whose contributions to the work, you have employed, to use your own language, "as a sacred trust confided in you by the people."

The interesting history which your report contains, of past attempts by the city authorities to execute similar works, their great cost, their abandonment and subsequent total extinction, show conclusively that great undertakings, intended to improve the sanitary condition of cities, can be more promptly, satisfactorily and economically executed by trained business men, than by municipal authorities, wherever found.

You have spoken of this great achievement, important as it is, as the initial part of the plans proposed by the Sanitary Association, for the removal of avoidable causes of disease—and that I know it to be. Much yet remains to be done.

We must purify, with the aid of these great pumps, every parallel gutter in the city. Clean the drainage canals and remedy their defects, protect the inhabitants in their immediate vicinity against the pollution of their dwellings and the destruction of their property from an overflow of these long neglected ditches by storm or lake water, and generally do those things which are, in this enlightened age, considered essential to preserve the public health. Who among us is so blind as not to see that this city has, within the two years that have just passed, sprung into a new life?

Who will deny that we have emerged from a transition state, and stand to-day upon the confines of an unbounded prosperity?

To render that prosperity secure and progressive, we must shake off the lethargy engendered by misfortune and misrule, and take on a new life of activity and enterprise.

Every man in every station has an absolute interest in the efforts that are being made by the Sanitary Association, for removing, destroying and preventing nuisances, dangerous to the public health.

With health assured and confidence restored, enforced idleness will be changed to steady employment for the working man. Real estate will appreciate in value, and New Orleans take the lead in the manufacture of cotton and other goods, and the transfer of Western produce—but blasted and dwarfed by pestilence, the vital force and productive power decreased, by reason of the numerous unsanitary evils which surround us; physical improvement and happiness rendered

impossible, through thoughtless and narrow parsimony; not all the railroads that may be constructed, barge lines established, nor factories built will make this a great and prosperous city.

Dr. Chaille, in his address to the State Medical Society has stated : "On March 31st, 1879, the Citizens' Sanitary Association was organized. The evidence of non-professional interest in matters of public hygiene is very encouraging, but experience warns us not to be too sanguine, and that it will require at least one year without an epidemic of yellow fever, to test the earnestness and enlightenment of this Association. Persistency in sanitary reform, in spite of the absence of epidemics, is the only test of the enlightenment of the reformer."

Fellow citizens! the Sanitary Association exists to-day, in its third year of unflagging effort, in the prime of life and vigor. The members of 1879 are with us still; with a firm purpose they have devoted their time and money, and whatever intelligence God has gifted them with, to a fight against rife causes of disease. Imperfect drainage, filthy streets and gutters, foul and ill constructed canals, low lots and places, a meagre water supply, a vile privy system, the rapid removal from our midst of all refuse matters, tending, under our hot sun, to produce and spread disease—are matters which engage their attention. Just so long as the Citizens contribute the material aid required, they can only rely upon the best efforts of the Association to continue the war against every enemy, in what-

soever form, to the material prosperity of the Crescent City.

Who can foretell the ultimate effect of the measures proposed by the Sanitary Association to secure for this City a thorough sanitary reform? Has the experiment ever been tried? If, as the outcome of your small annual investment, this City can be made a clean delightful place of residence every month in the year, life, health, physical happiness increased, and the moral condition improved, will not the investment pay?

The theme has led me to prolong my remarks beyond the reasonable limits of your patience, for which I ask your kind indulgence.

I have now the pleasure, Gentlemen of the Flushing Committee, to receive from you, in the name of the New Orleans Auxiliary Sanitary Association this splendid engine and buildings, the iron pipes and hydrants, which you deliver to me, to be held by the Association, as the property of the Citizens of New Orleans.

To the people then, we will dedicate the works in the words of the motto adopted for the pumping stations.

*"The people have created it
The people will care for it"*

